



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY

August 19, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are contacting you regarding new rules governing the Louisiana's Natural and Scenic Rivers System, announced by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) in October 2013, which became effective March 20, 2014. Recommendations to amend the existing rules were made by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).

To give you a brief background of the Scenic Rivers Program; in 1970, the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System was created by the Louisiana Legislature. The System was developed for the purpose of preserving, protecting, developing, reclaiming, and enhancing the wilderness qualities, scenic beauties, and ecological regimes of certain free-flowing Louisiana streams. Scenic River Permits are required for all activities on or near System Rivers that may detrimentally impact the ecological integrity, scenic beauty or wilderness qualities of those rivers.

LDWF is notifying you regarding the specific rule changes to:

Title 76, Part IX, §117. Permitted Activities

B. Activities requiring permits shall include, but not be limited to, the following activities:

10. mooring of houseboats or floating camps on system streams **except**:

a. when the houseboat or floating camp is moored to a legally permitted piling, pier or bulkhead or moored to trees using connections that do not damage the trees and with the written permission of the owner of the trees. Written permission must be physically on the houseboat or floating camp and include the owner's contact information; and

b. houseboats moored on a System Stream shall have a permit or letter of certification from the Health Unit (Department of Health and Hospitals / "DHH") of the parish within which the system stream is located verifying that it has an approved sewerage disposal system on board. Furthermore, all occupants of houseboats and floating camps when on a system stream must utilize an approved sewerage disposal system.

To ensure that Scenic River users are in compliance with the revised rule changes, LDWF is requiring that you contact this office within 30 days of the notification date (August 22, 2015). Due to the large number of houseboats which can be difficult to distinguish and track, LDWF has created an optional identification and contact form (see attached) requesting pertinent information relative to your vessel. Completing this form may expedite the approval process and

reduce repeated field inspections and notices. Please fill out the attached form and forward it to LDWF by September 21, 2015, using one of the following methods:

Mail

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Scenic Rivers Program
Attn: Chris Davis
2000 Quail Drive, Room 432
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

E-Mail

rcdavis@wlf.la.gov (Chris Davis)

As stated in the rule changes from the previous page, approvals are required from the mooring landowner and DHH. Information regarding potentially acceptable sewerage treatment system options has been included with this notice. All sewerage treatment systems must be approved by DHH. Questions regarding sewage disposal systems should be directed to DHH. Please contact Judith Culpepper or Mike Hanberry (985-893-6296). **The deadline to receive approval from DHH is October 21, 2015.**

Failure to contact the Department by September 21, 2015, or to receive approval from DHH by October 21, 2015, may result in your continued violation of Statute (56:1849) and may bring about an enforcement action.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will continue to work with all applicants to ensure that all houseboats are in compliance with the newly revised rules and regulations of the Scenic Rivers Program. For information on the Scenic Rivers Program, you can visit our website at: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/scenic-rivers>

Sincerely,



Jimmy L. Anthony
Assistant Secretary

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attachments